

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /099 W

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R 181625Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2705

UNCLAS LONDON 08272

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: LONDON REACTION TO REPORTS THAT TALKS BETWEEN
PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN VISITORS WERE RECORDED

1. THE TIMES OF JULY 18 REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER
HEATH DURING HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON
LAST FEBRUARY IN WASHINGTON DID NOT KNOW THE
CONVERSATIONS WERE BEING RECORDED BUT HE IS SAID TO BE
NOT UNDULY WORRIED ABOUT IT. TIMES STATES THAT THIS
REACTION FROM OFFICIAL QUARTERS YESTERDAY INDICATES THAT
THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS TO AVOID BEING BROUGHT INTO THE
WATERGATE AFFAIR OR TO CRITICIZE THE METHODS USED IN
WASHINGTON TO RECORD TALKS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS
VISITORS. EVEN SO, TIMES CONTINUES, THE PRIME MINISTER
IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE IT KNOWN THAT NO SUCH METHODS ARE USED
WHEN OFFICIAL VISITORS COME TO 10 DOWNING STREET OR OTHER
MINISTERIAL OFFICES FOR CONFIDENTIAL TALKS. GUARDIAN
AND DAILY TELEGRAPH TODAY CARRY STORIES GENERALLY
SIMILAR TO TIMES.

2. MEANWHILE IN PARLIAMENT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REPORTS
THAT MR. HEATH'S TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT WERE RECORDED
HAVE BEEN PUT DOWN BY TWO LABOR MPS. ON JULY 26 THE
PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ASKED (A) WHETHER HE IS SATISFIED
THAT THE TAPING IN NO WAY CONSTITUTES A DANGER TO THE
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SECURITY OF THE UK, AND (B) IF HE WILL ASK THE PRESIDENT

TO SUPPLY COPIES OF THE TAPES SO THAT THEY CAN BE PLACED
AMONG BRITISH ARCHIVES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON08272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730726/aaaaasxy.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LONDON REACTION TO REPORTS THAT TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN VISITORS WERE RECORDED
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005